(c) whether it is also a fact that nearly 44 per cent of the existing vessels may be retrieved by 2021; and

(d) the steps that have been taken or proposed to be taken to improve the condition of shipping industry?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The share of goods transported in India's Exim trade by Indian Shipping Industry has declined from 31.5% during the year 1999-2000 to 13.7% during the year 2004-05.

(c) It is difficult to forcast presently how much percentage of tonnage would live through Indian flag all through the years upto 2021.

(d) The Government has been taking various steps from time to time for the growth of Indian tonnage. These include:

(i) The acquisition of vessels has been brought under Open General Licence. The Shipowners are free to decide on type of ships to be acquired and their area of operation etc.

(ii) 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is permitted in Shipping Sector.

(iii) Rate of depreciation increased from 20% to 25%.

(iv) Tonnage Tax has been introduced from 2004-05 whereby in the matter of taxation a level playing field has been given to Indian Shipping Industry *vis-a-vis* international shipping industries.

(v) The formalities of registration of newly acquired vessels have been simplified.

(vi) The maritime training, examination and certification system has been streamlined to meet the market demands.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Increase of power capacity by atomic energy

†1785. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on the basis of indigenously produced uranium and thorium, the generation of power can be increased up to 30,000 MW in the coming years in the country;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the power generation capacity can be enhanced upto 1,00,000 MW by bringing comprehensive changes in the present policy with regard to atomic energy in the country; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the Government's assessment thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) The three-stage nuclear power programme based on indigenous uranium and thorium has huge potential for nuclear power generation. The potential of first stage using natural uranium is about 10000 MWe and this capacity is planned to be set up by the year 2020. The second stage, which uses spent fuel from the first stage after reprocessing has a power generation potential upto 500000 MWe. The first 500 MWe Fast Breeder Reactor is currently under construction and this will be followed by series of FBRs. Reaching a total nuclear capacity of 30000 MWe would need setting up of a number of fast breeder reactors in the second stage. The three stage programme is robust and is on course.

(c) and (d) International cooperation in nuclear power is needed to add significant nuclear power capacity at a fast pace, as additionality to the indigenous programme. The current discussion with several other countries to open civil nuclear cooperation is a part of the effort of the Government to access international technology/fuel. The total nuclear power capacity that can be added through this route depends on the growth of nuclear power programme, other energy options and the required energy mix.

Bilateral agreement to get civil nuclear technology

†1786. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any effort has been made by Government to sign a bilateral agreement to get civil nuclear technology and related fuel from nuclear power countries other than America;

(b) if so, the time by when this effort was made and the countries involved therein; and

(c) the reaction of the concerned country after such efforts were made by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) We have been also discussing civil nuclear co-operation with Russia, France and other potential countries for a number of years. While the discussions have been positive, realization of actual cooperation is dependent on Nuclear Suppliers Group exemption for India.

Setting up of nuclear power plant in M.P.

†1787. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Madhya Pradesh has sent a proposal to Central Government to install an Atomic power plant in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether it is also a fact that he has assured to install the plant by sanctioning it expeditiously during his visit to Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) if so, by when it would be implemented and the present status of the same?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.